

Left, future issues of OAG go to my
new address.

ARENA REPORT

Volume I, Issue 18

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Friday, May 19, 1989

New Haven Coliseum

New Haven, CT

Welcome to my farewell to New England edition of "Arena Report". This will be my final issue I put out in Ct. We leave in a couple of weeks for the smoldering state of F-L-A. I bet you people can't wait until I get down there so you'll stop hearing about it. My first issue down there was tentatively June 18 with Dusty's group but I found out that Vince is running Orlando Arena on 6/24 so I may attend Dusty's June 11 show. Either way, you'll have an issue in mid June and two for the month.

In this issue we've got a surprise as an unexpected show was found by "Arena Reporter" Dan Reilly. (Hey Dan, how much did you pay Steve Beverly to get on page 1 of "Matwatch".) Dan called me Wednesday as he saw an ad for a "Trans World Wrestling" show in East Hartford. The show is Sunday, May 21 and a report is in this issue. It is very rare that an indy is run in this area so forgive me for being overly enthusiastic. The Samoans are booking the show. I'll take an award for tip of the week as I called Scott Dickinson to let him know and he called Afa and he's reffing the show. Hard to be humble huh? I won't go over the line up but Bobby Jagers is scheduled to be there and I know he's booked for Dusty Sunday in Orlando. Already a no show. So when you get to the report you'll see if he showed. Yeah, right. We also have Part II of Mexican wrestling and I think you'll thoroughly enjoy it. Plus the usual match reports, letters, and recent ramblings on the mat scene. I also have a special "Final Word" for this issue and it's basically a salute to the many people who have made being a fan here in Connecticut so much fun.

"Arena Report" is published twice a month and costs 50¢ an issue. A number should appear at the top left corner of this page notifying you how many issues you have left. While I'm at it and before I forget, my new address will be 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. That will be effective June 1. So if you send me something within the next two weeks, use your judgement on which address to send it. I'll have my mail forwarded anyway so no problem. I attended the New Haven show with my two future Bro-in-laws Mark and Tom so lets stagger into the Coliseum for a night of great (?) action with the Fed.

Opening Match

Lanny Poffo beat Jim Powers in 10:19. Decent opener. Poffo looked better than normal. Powers lifted "The Genius" for a suplex and when Jim went to roll on top for the pin, Lanny hooked his leg. I wonder where Poffo found the time to finish his schooling working seven nights a week. * $\frac{1}{2}$

2nd Match

Honkey Tonk Man upended Hillbilly Jim in 7:26 as Jimmy Hart distracted Billy and Honkey gave him a knee to the back. Jim did the

Do-Si-Do with ring announcer Frank. Pitiful bout. -*

--- They did the angle with Santana and Martel as Rick attacked Tito when he came out and they postponed the bout until later in the show.

3rd Match

Barbarian beat Jim Neidhart in 10:19 with the same finish as Honkey-Jim but of course it was Mr. Fuji doing the distracting. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

WWF Intercontinental Championship

Ultimate Warrior defeated Rick Rude via count out in 9:35. Best match of the night. Heat was intense. I don't know which of these guys has improved more. I believe Warrior is no longer the worst wrestler around. I loved the match but the ending was too quick and had no point to it. For no reason at all, Heenan left ring-side like it was a cue for them to finish as Warrior chased Rick out of the ring, smashed him into the post and then jumped back in. Would have gone *** $\frac{1}{2}$ but for finish, I'll give it ***.

5th Match

Bad News Brown beat Blue Blazer with the enzuigiri in 5:36. Nice spot to open up as Hart did his backflip in the ring but Brown clotheslined him from behind. Owen took a bump in the corner ala brother Bret and then Brown nailed him with coup de grace. The funeral for Blazer isn't far off. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

6th Match

Rick Martel beat Tito Santana after he scooped Chico's legs up and used the corner buckles for leverage. Match only went 3:14 and was all punching. Their rematches better be better. *

7th Match

Red Rooster pinned Brooklyn Brawler with help from guest referee Ron Garvin. Rooster had sunset flipped Lombardi from apron and Steve tried to hang on but Rugged Ron kicked his hands and counted the pinfall. Bad bout. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

WWF Tag Team Championship

Demolition beat The Twin Towers to retain their belts via DQ in 11:50. Too much bad comedy by Akeem. Match was okay. After a ref bump, Boss Man took out his night stick and attacked the Demos for DQ. No Slick. **

New Haven Notes

Attendance was 6,500... Batten down the hatches. The battle lines have been drawn. The WAR OF CONNECTICUT IS ON!!! The WWF announced a show tonight for 6/22 in Hartford billed as "A Night of Champions". It is one night before the NWA runs New Haven on Friday 6/23. Here's the lineup of the WWF show: Hogan-Savage, Rude-Snuka (place went nuts when announced) Demo-Twin Towers return, Rougeaus & Martel vs. Rockers & Santana, Hercules-Bravo, Roma-Poffo. NWA has: Steamboat-Luger, Samoan Swat Team-Roadies, Gordy-Williams, Freebirds-Dynamic Dudes, Orton-Ricky Santana, Gilbert & Rick Steiner-Reed & Simmons, Rotunda & Spivey vs. Scott Hall & Brian Pillman, Sting-Muta, Lunatic vs. Scott Steiner... Contrary to what people say, I don't think Vince's show will hurt Turner's in any way. The crowd at the last show was die hard NWA and they won't miss this one. Vince, are you sure you don't think the NWA is competition?.. Figures, just when things heat up, I leave.

TRANS WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Sunday, May 21, 1989

East Hartford High School Gym

East Hartford, CT

Opening Match

Doug the Destroyer beat Dale Superior in 10:20. It was one of these guys first match. Not bad for being pretty green. End saw Dale jump from the top rope but was met by a Destroyer fist and pin. RL $\frac{1}{2}$ * DR D

Midget Match

Haiti Kid over Irish Leprechaun in 11:15. Irish gave Haiti an airplane spin that made both dizzy. Haiti recovered first and nailed the Irish midget with a nice clothesline to set up the pin. RL $\frac{1}{2}$ * DR- F

TWWF Tag Team Championship

The Samoans, Afa and Sika retained their title by beating The Power Twins in 12:27. Twins are bad and Samoans like to work slow. End came as Afa and Sika used a double flying headbutt on one of the twins. RL * DR- C

4th Match

Jules Strongbow beat Kamala by DQ at 9:15. Horrendous. Kamala had a "Friday" with him who was promoter (not of this show) Mitch Seinfeld. Kamala grabbed Mitch's cane and ref Scott Dickinson dq'd the Ugandan. RL -** DR- F-

Main Event

Ken Patera made The Cheetah Kid submit with the full nelson in 12:42. This result stunk. Kid has some great moves. He did a Owen Hart spot where he jumps in the middle of the ropes, lands on his thighs, flips over and goes for an arm drag but Patera clotheslined him out of the ring. Too bad it was a phantom clothesline though. RL * DR- D

TWWF Heavyweight Championship

Yukon Jack retained his title by beating "Hangman" Bobby Jagers at 6:12 with a powerslam. I hated this result too. Jagers taking a pin from an unknown although to the people here tonight Bobby was an unknown too. RL */4 DR- D

East Hartford Notes

I attended the show with Dan, his son Chris, Scott Dickinson (who worked the show and did a very good job I might add, better than Fred Sparta) and Scott's brother Steve... Got a chance to talk to Jagers. He's all done in Florida. Dirty White Boy, Tony Anthony took his place as half of "Southern Force" with Black Bart... He said the PWF will continue to run without Dusty whom he thinks will do great for Vince. Hey, if Duggan and Beefcake can get over, why not Dusty. But why do I feel Vince will make Rhodes look like the biggest fool yet. Don't look for Big Dust to be in too long if that's the case... Crowd was 263.

Ramblings

"As The Heels and Faces Turn" is about to start up again in the NWA. Luger will be turning as will Dr. Death and Ron Simmons who in my eyes, already has. I think they are making things too confusing for

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Mexican Wrestling: An Inside Look

Part II

by Evan Ginzburg

The first weekend I saw a tremendous five match card. Each bout was two of three falls and the majority of the wrestlers are smaller and lighter than most American stars, particularly those in the NWA and WWF. Most utilize amazing aerial and scientific moves reminiscent of the Japanese champions and Owen Hart/Blue Blazer (before McMahon clipped his wings). Each match was remarkable in that no rest holds were used. The movement was continuous except for an occasional submission hold. The main event of the night featured Los Arqueros Del Espacio (Robim, Lazer, and Danny Boy) vs. Los Chacales I and II and El Estudiante. Amazingly, the entire bout was purely scientific as they put on a virtual "wrestling clinic", displaying one beautiful move after another. No "rest holds" were used. The most astonishing maneuver occurred when one of the main eventers leaped over the top rope onto all five of the other participants outside, sending them into the first row of fans! It was an unforgettable sight. Throughout the evening, the wrestlers performed series of breathtaking rope work, rolls and leaps; one was the unbelievable Cabellero 2,000's flying press from the top rope onto his stunned opponent outside the ring. In comparison, many of the over sized and over hyped American superstars appear almost lumbering and stationary.

I returned the next week and again, the majority of the matches were six man tags. In the co-feature (Super Astro, El Monarcha, and Rey Misterio II vs. Darth Vader, Sergento Muerte and Caballon I) a chair was used and the blood started pouring. The crowd reached a near frenzied state as the grapplers brawled outside the ring and flung each other into the crowd with no regard for the fans' safety. (They fled in terror.) Super Astro (who performed the most impressive acrobatic maneuvers and rope work of the night) found his mask torn as well which added to the intensity. The match had everything a fan could ever hope for.

The main event was also very special as El Loco Sandokan defeated El Huichol in a thrilling title defense. Although Sandokan was not the fan favorite, his actual ring tactics were mostly aerial and scientific. The match took on the feel of a long, intense Ric Flair battle. The highlight was El Huichol leap over the top rope and actually fly onto Sandokan, propelling them right into the third row! One would have a long wait before seeing such a dangerous move in the US.

To think that this kind of action is available to Tijuana fans every weekend makes them very lucky indeed. Each of the grapplers, although varying in size, experience and ability, gives 110%. There was less than 1,000 fans each night I attended, but one would have imagined from the action, that they were performing at Madison Square Garden. It was an experience I'll always remember and cherish, and I certainly hope that I'll be able to return again in the not too distant future.

Thanks Evan for a great article. If anyone's interested at any time in writing a piece for "Arena Report", let me know. I welcome any contributions.

Correspondent Reports

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

May 13, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Red Rooster beat Brooklyn Brawler with a sunset flip in 12:16.
2) Warlord over Koko Ware using a powerslam at 10:38. 3) Barry Horowitz beat Dusty Wolf with an elbow from the middle rope at 10:22. 4) Jim Duggan beat Haku in 10:04 with a spear. 5) The Rockers beat The Fab Ragu's at 17:33. Raymond tried a splash but Michaels lifted his knees and then got the pin. 6) Mega Man Magee beat Tim Horner at 6:51 as Magee reversed an attempted flying press from Mega. 7) John Studd lumbered past Andre The Giant via DQ when Haku interfered. Att: 5,500

Los Angeles Sports Arena

Los Angeles, CA

May 12, 1989

Correspondent: Andy Dragos

1) Paul Roma pinned Boris Zuukov with a fair powerslam. D 2) Bret Hart and Curt Hennig went to a twenty minute draw. Real good bout. After match Curt was asked by Bret for five more minutes and Hennig made believe he was leaving but then jumped into the ring where Hart cleaned house. A- 3) Rockin Robin pinned Judy Martin. Andy's snores were louder than the heat. Robin used a bulldog. D- 4) Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage went to a double count out. Sherri handed "Macho Man" an object at one point. End came with both brawling on the floor. Decent Hulk match. B 5) Sheepwackers (Busherders) beat Tully and Arn as Butch pinned Arn with Luke's help. C- 6) Dino Bravo defeated Hercules with a sunset flip from the apron and used ropes to secure victory. D 7) Roddy Piper upended Ted DiBiase when Ted hit Virgil who was holding Roddy and Piper rolled up the "Million Dollar Man". They announced Jake's injury and Ted said Roberts was chicken and proceeded to try to bribe Piper. Roddy creamed Ted and handed out money to ringside. Match was pretty normal. Nothing special. C+ Att: 16,500

Jaffa Mosque

Altoona, PA

May 19, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Barry Horowitz beat Jeff Bronsky in 16:15 with an elbow from the second rope. B 2) Dino Bravo defeated Hercules in 11:35 when Herc went for a sunset flip and Bravo held the ropes for pin. C- 3) Rockin Robin retained her title pinning Judy Martin with a rollup after Martin missed a corner charge. C- 4) John Studd won by DQ over Andre the Giant when Haku interfered at 6:06. D 5) Hacking Duggan over Haku with a spear. 6) Tom Magee beat Tim Horner when he reversed Tim's bodypress and cradled him in 11:17. C- 7) Bushwackers beat Brain Busters as Butch Miller pinned Tully Blanchard when Luke headbutted Butch on top at 10:14. B Att: 2,764 Gate: \$28,780

Kirk Nevin Arena

Greensburg, PA

May 20, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Jumpin Jack Flash beat Gentleman James Folger with a small package in 10:57. C+ 2) Johnny Valiant beat Terry Gibbs in 8:33 with a shoulder block followed up with an elbow smash for the pi. D+ 3) Wendy Richter over Heidi Lee Morgan in 12:52 with a roll up. C+ 4) Ken Patera & Tommy Jammer beat Badd Company as Patera pinned Paul Diamond with an elbow smash. Jammer subbed for no show Brad Rhengans. After bout, Tanaka and Diamond had a little shoving match. C 5) Col. DeBeers and Derrick Dukes went to a double count out at 13:43. Dukes sub for Slaughter. C- 6) Larry Zybysko retained the AWA title by pinning Wahoo

McDaniel in 10:23 as Wahoo bled. The indian was a sub for Tom Zenk.
C + Att: 500

Letters To The Editor

Wrestle War '89

I thought that the second half of the PPV show was the best wrestling action I have seen in years. Why are the PPV cards so great and the live shows so bad?

If the NWA turns Gilbert and puts him with Funk, they will have the greatest heel combination in wrestling history. Just tell whoever is in charge not to feud them with Steve Casey and Ranger Ross.

Gary Fishman
Kew Gardens, NY

Heel Turn

I, Jeff Travis, as former leader of the famous Travis Brothers, am announcing that I have split from my partners and will henceforth be known as J.Z. Travis, the only and original Travis brother. Lance and Greg were holding me back- Lance with his "I'm getting married so I'm not fun anymore" attitude and Greg not having had a "Hot Love Babe" (RL- Hope I didn't offend anyone. But I did not write it.) in years just doesn't cut it, since I'm the only Travis active it seems.

I will be choosing a partner (possibly Ron "I'm married but I know I can be a Travis" Lemieux) and am in serious negotiations with Harry "Father Travis" White to be my manager. I also now publically issue a challenge to the ex-Travis's to a fight to the finish for the name at UAWF Convention '89--The Travis Beyond.

J.Z. Travis
Woodstock, ONT Canada

RL- Just to dispel rumors before they start. I am very happily married but I would consider this association if I could work under a hood as "The Masked Travis Brother" or maybe "The Unknown Travis".

(continued from page 3)

the fans... If all things go well, look for "Superfly" Snuka to win the Intercontinental strap from Rude at "Summerslam"... What a bump! Memories of Memphis all over again. On the World Class show this past week they showed a clip of Eric Embry cleaning house with a 2 X 4 (Hacksnore Embry?) Cactus Jack was standing on the ring apron and wasn't holding the ropes when Eric clocked him. He went straight on the back of his head but no juice this time. Ouch!... On that same show they had a tag match pitting Buddy Roberts and Gary Young against Mil Mascaras & Embry. The best TV match out of that group all year. Mil is in awesome shape for his age and he looked better than usual... Vince will be taping July 18 and 19 in Worcestor and New Haven repectively.... Terry Taylor's next feud should be a barn burner. Ready for this: Boris Zhukov. Oooooooh yeaaaah!... Three surprising Bash sites for NWA are Boston, Providence, and Springfield. (Where they'll die a miserable death. No local TV and the Main cable system in nearby CT does not carry TBS... I thought I'd cry when I heard those dates since I will be history but then I heard they are running Bash shows throughout Florida the first week of August... The last Bash is slated for the Omni on August 6th... A big thanks to Bill Moffitt who gave me a great review in "Pro Wrestling Enquirer"... Ted Field, Jr. of RFD #1 Box 169, Epping, NH 03042 is looking for the tapes of the Piper-Nord fiascos from Portland. Ted has a wide variety of tapes so you may be able to work out a deal... Almost forgot. I caught the FNN special

on the Cauliflower Alley Club. It was interesting to see some of the guys like John Tolos and The Destroyer but one thing was evident. These old timers lost touch with what's going on today as they didn't seem to know many guys that are currently working. The second half hour was a call in show and I felt so sorry for Red Bastien who was taking the calls with Danny Wolfe. The first caller asked him if he thought managers and valets should be fined and suspended for interfering. She said she was disgusted with it. With a straight face, Red answered her question. Most of the calls were like that which makes me feel terrible. What a sad commentary on the intelligence of America that so many people can believe this sport is legit. And I know there are alot who know it is but don't want to believe it. But there arw definatly grown people out there who swear that all is on the level.. Boy, does Johnny Valentine ever remind one of Greg, unreal.

Final Word

Since this is my last issue before moving I'd like to take a few lines and thank some special people. To Dan Reilly who before I met him had no idea what going to a show with a fellow smart fan was all about. I mean myself not knowing. Gone will be the daily phone calls which aren't long distance. In leaving Dan, I only have two words to say to you, "What's Up"? I'll miss you buddy. To John Lanigan who no matter where I live will always be my main long distance wrestling buddy... To Louie Fortuna, the fan with the heart of gold. It was great meeting you guy and remember, I don't want those Boston shows for free. No, don't argue with me. I'll send you POWW tapes. Heh, heh... And to the guys who I've recently gone to shows with: Scott Dickinson (who will have the pleasure of rooming with me in Chicago), his bro Steve, Evan, Gary and I can't forget Ted "Koko" Bruttomesso. (Hey Ted, how much to cover that show in Hartford 6/22?)

As for this issue, thanks to everyone who contributed. (Even you Zingaaaa, as I say it.) I guess I'll see you all in about a month. I will be back. Here once again is my new address. (And if you were nice, you'd send me something before I get there so I'll feel at home.) 370 LAKE TAHOE COURT #102, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701 (effective June 1) My phone number is (oh,oh) (407)260-5711. And if any of you ever plan on being in Florida or my area please don't hesitate to call. Maybb we could get together for a Dustyless show. Until then.

Asta La Vista Baby,

Ron